

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 AID-05 /083 W

----- 012791

O R 151140Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9015

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2304

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: RENEWED SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORT

1. ACCORDING TO THE "L'ORIENT LE JOUR", WHICH HAS GOOD SYRIAN CONTACTS, ASSAD IS ALLEGEDLY PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW SOLUTION FOR THE PRESENT LEBANESE CRISIS. WHETHER OR NOT THE REPORT IS ACCURATE, THE POINTS OF THE SOLUTION STRIKE US AS BEING A FAIRLY GOOD WAY TO GET THINGS MOVING AGAIN. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. KHATIB AND HIS MEN WOULD RALLY THEMSELVES TO GEN. AHDAB.

B. THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND WOULD RETAKE CONTROL OF ALL UNITS AND AN AMNESTY WOULD BE PROCLAIMED IN FAVOR OF ALL MILITARY REBELS AND DESERTERS.

C. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WOULD CONSIDER HIMSELF AS NOT AFFECTED BY THE PARLIMENTARY PETITION REQUESTING HIS RESINATION.

D. A NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED AND WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPLYING ALL THE CLAUSES CONTAINED IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OF FEB. 14 (BAABDA DECLARATIN).

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E. ONCE THE ABOVE PROCESS WAS UNDERWAY, THE PRESIDENT

OF THE REPUBLIC WOULD VOLUNTARILY RESIGN.

2. IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT, WITHOUT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THE SITUATION WILL NOT DETERIORATE INTO ALL OUT CIVIL WAR. WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SYRIANS, DESPITE WHAT MAY BE THEIR PRESENT FEELINGS, TO BECOME INVOLVED ONCE MORE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN REACHING A SETTLEMENT, PERHAPS USING THE ABOVE AS A STARTER.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL FOR FRANGIE WAS COUCHED PRIMARILY AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AND THAT THEY WERE BOTH GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE PRESIDENCY VACANT BEFORE ANY AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON WHO WAS TO REPLACE HIM. THEIR SUPPORT FOR FRANGIE THEREFORE SEEMS TO BE LIMITED, I.E., "SO LONG AS THE MATTER OF SUCCESSION HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED BEFORE HAND". IN FACT, WE ALSO SEE GENUINE DIFFICULTIES IN SITUATION WHERE THE POLITICIANS WOULD HAVE RECOURSE TO THEIR OLD WAYS AND ENGAGE IN THE USUAL MANIPULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTING A PRESIDENT. THUS, ONE FURTHER POSITIVE ACTION THE SYRIANS COULD UNDERTAKE WOULD BE TO HASTEN THE PROCESS OF CONCURRENCE ON A SUCCESSOR TO FRANGIE, PERHAPS BY INDICATING THEIR FAVORITE CANDIDATE. (THIS IS EXPECTED OF THEM HERE IN ANY CASE.)

4. REGARDING FRANGIE'S INTRANSIGENCE, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED (AND ARE INCLINED TO CONCUR) THAT HE WOULD RESIGN WITH LITTLE HESITATION IF HE WERE TOLD TO DO SO BY CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL. THUS, THESE TWO LEADERS (WHO, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED, ARE LESS INFLEXIBLE THAN THE PRESIDENT) ARE PLAYING A KEY ROLE WITH RESPECT TO FRANGIE'S TERM IN OFFICE.  
LAMBRAKIS

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